

You are Greatly Appreciated!



Dear friends of Bright Hope World...

I want to pass on to you the expressions of thanks I recently received from some of our partners for sending us to facilitate Foundations for Farming training.

On my last trip I was asked twice by different partners on different occasions to specifically thank our senders. On the surface this may seem normal to you but, for several reasons, it really was not. When we are spending time with our partners in developing countries, if gratitude is expressed it is usually directed at us, as we are the ones there spending time with our partners. Yet on my last trip, we were not thanked directly at all. Instead our partners insisted we pass on thanks to our supporters for sending us to work with them.

My first reaction to this was something like: "you have got to be kidding me. Passing on thanks to people for sending ME?!" But as I thought about it, it became clear to me that it was not at all about me, but about you. Our partners made me promise to thank 'the senders' and that includes all of you who support Bright Hope World in some way, even if it is just encouraging any of the Bright Hope World Team through your interest in the work. Some of you support the ministry of Bright Hope World in very significant ways through prayer, time or other, and our partners are keenly aware of this. So, rightly enough, they seemed to have a genuine desire to thank you. But this is somewhat unusual. Please let me explain.

At home in New Zealand thanking people is a normal part of daily life, but in many other cultures they have different ways of expressing thanks. This is often through means other than words of gratitude. It actually really touched me that these people were eager for me to pass their thanks on to you because they realised the value of your contribution to their ministries.

A lot of you will be aware that Bright Hope World has as one of its values that we are consistently 'field-focused' and I think we are all right behind this. This value does, however, have an inherent risk of sometimes leaving supporters feeling a little under-valued. But please know that our partners surely do not under-value your contribution and the ones I visited genuinely wanted you to know that, on the other side of the world, in the difficult places, you are appreciated for your faithfulness. I hope you do receive this gratitude in the spirit in which it was given. So, once again, THANKS.

John Vlaming
Agricultural Director

Bright Hope News

Every two years Bright Hope World typically runs a 'Summit' in Christchurch at which we tell partner stories and spend time with our supporters so that they can hear what God is doing around the world. The problem is... Christchurch is a long way for many of our supporters to come! So, a few weeks ago we ran the first of our new 'Regional Summits' in Nelson.

The idea here is to shorten the event a little and run it locally in different parts of the country so it is easier for people to come along and hear about our partners. We were delighted to have over 90 people come along to our Nelson summit, and we were greatly encouraged by the feedback we received.

So, on December 3 at Rosedale Chapel in Invercargill, we will be running a **Southland Summit** for supporters in this region.

We'll update details and times shortly (via an email and on our Facebook page) but would strongly encourage you to mark the date if you are going to be in the area on the day.

We'll be sharing a bit about who we are, but mostly sharing about some of our amazing partners and what they are doing to see people come to Christ and be lifted out of poverty.

Hope to see you there!

Life Change Story – Pangani School, Uganda



Since 2002 Bright Hope World has been partnering with CFC-CCM in Busia, Uganda (See UGA02 - <http://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=94>).

A major component of the partnership has been church planting and, as part of this initiative, our partners found themselves in Pangani, a largely unreached area which is very unstable. In recent years there have been many disputes and armed confrontations.

Pangani is an extremely undeveloped area with few schools. Female genital mutilation is prevalent in the area. Girls are married off at an early age (as early as 13), men still beat up their wives and there is a high divorce rate.

In late 2013 Bright Hope World commenced a partnership with CFC-CCM to help establish a school in Pangani. On a recent visit it was incredibly encouraging to note the change this has had to the community in such a short space of time.

The school is doing extremely well. It now has 315 children and is consistently rating among the highest schools in the district despite its extreme lack of resources. The school has a focus on quality education which means that it is being noticed by the educational authorities. It is in fact called a 'miracle school' by the district education inspector.

The influence of the school in the community is significant. Far fewer students are dropping out and more of the children in the local area are now attending school, whereas previously most of the children would probably not have been educated. The instance of primary school-aged children staying at home or being withdrawn from school has decreased and early marriages in the community are diminishing.

Circumstances in this area are very challenging and difficult but change is happening! This is the power of God using the right people in the right place at the right time, and it is a great privilege for us to be partnering with them.

Read more about the Pangani School Development (UGA02b) at: <http://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=235>

Prayer and Praise

1. Thank God for all the tireless and generous supporters we have and especially for those who pray for us and for our partners. Praise God that our partners sense the commitment and affection that our supporters have towards them.
2. Pray for Asuman who is the Principal at Pangani School and for the continued impact of the school in this community.
3. Pray for Kevin Honore who is currently visiting partners in Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda), the Middle East and India, back home late November.
4. Pray for Rob Purdue who will be shortly meeting key donors in the United Kingdom.



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